**Writer’s Statement**

I wrote this writing narrative about the struggles I had writing a eulogy for a close friend that passed away. I wanted my piece to describe the difficulties I experienced in writing the eulogy, but also convey the fond memories of my friend. My friend played an important part in my growth as a writer. Her death made me realize the gifts she had shared with me and the memories of her I would carry with me always. I knew this piece would be read by the whole class, but I also wrote it to share it with my children. I hoped they would learn about an experience I had when I was still a teenager, and maybe reflect on the special friendships and relationships they have in their own lives. I also wanted them to learn how a pencil and a sheet of paper can help them write down memories that occur that might be too difficult to talk about.

I found the writing narrative to be a very challenging assignment. I have had so many writing experiences over my lifetime that it was hard to limit my focus to one thing. I kept trying to squeeze too many ideas or events into that one crucial event. Usually I can sit down and write a draft that pleases me, but, with the narrative, I found my drafts were not bringing my memories to life. My first drafts seemed to ramble and I seemed to lose focus in the middle of the narrative. I wanted to write about something that really challenged me as a writer and changed me as a person. It took me over ten drafts to accomplish that task.

Since my topic touched on a very emotional and personal experience, I struggled with how much detail I should add. I wanted to ‘show more than tell,” but I was not sure if my final draft accomplished that task. Did my words describe my experiences well enough or could I have added even more details? Also, I struggled with how to organize my final draft. I mapped out my ideas and then numbered them, but I still ran into trouble when trying to make sure everything stayed clear in the reader’s mind. It was difficult trying to write about how I wrote the eulogy and the experiences that led up to it. Was my final organization effective or could my writing have flowed better?